

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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14 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: Survey of Department of Commerce File Containing Reference to
CIA Document.

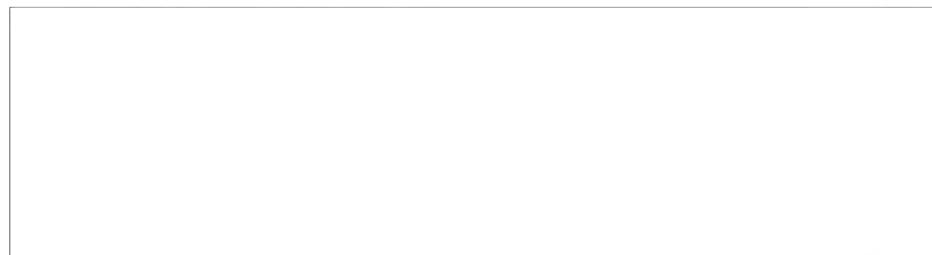
1. I was informed by Mr. Thau, General Counsel's Office BFC, and Mr. Hebrew, BFC Investigation Staff, that the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee had not been given the number of CIA document in question.

2. However, there were two references in the sanitized file shown to the Subcommittee that Mr. Thau and Mr. Hebrew believe referred to the CIA document. These were as follows:

a. [redacted] An excerpt that I made from
this summary reads as follows:

"At this point, BFC received highly classified information from another US agency which indicated probable shipment of linseed oil to the Soviet Bloc."

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b. Paris Despatch 151 to the State Department, dated 21 July 1955, in the reference line following the name of the addressee referred to a Department of Commerce letter of 19 May 1955. The investigators for the Subcommittee requested this letter and were informed by Commerce that it could not be made available to them. This letter of 19 May which was not made available to the Subcommittee is attached hereto.

3. Other items of interest in the Commerce file, which concerned the sale of 210,000 lbs. of CCC linseed oil to Interoceanic Commodity Corporation and the resulting investigation of its disposal, were as follows:

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(4) A letter from Commerce to the Fountain Committee dated 21 October 1955, reporting on their investigation of the disposal of the 210 million lbs. of linseed oil acquired by Interoceanic Corporation from CCC had resulted in their being unable to establish illegal transshipment and that they were closing this file. (The file also disclosed that on 24 June 1954, the sale of the 210 million lbs. of linseed oil to Interoceanic Corporation and Andrew Cairns had been reported in a press release by CCC.)

(5) Statistics compiled by Commerce showed that in 1954, 53 thousand metric tons of linseed oil were shipped to the USSR by Argentina of a total export from Argentina of 226 thousand metric tons. In 1955, 38 thousand metric tons of a total export of 157 thousand metric tons were shipped to the USSR by Argentina.

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